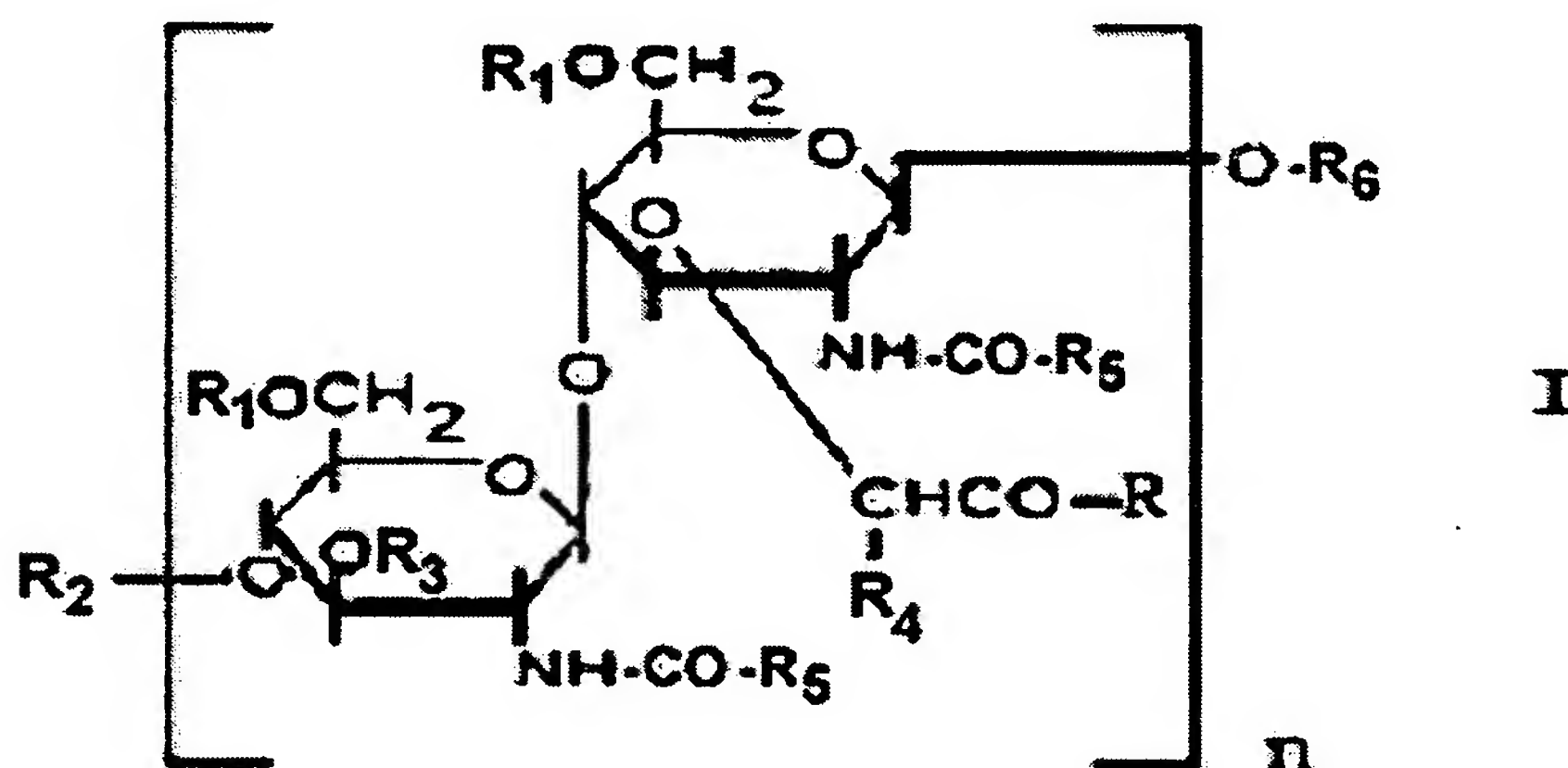


CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for treating a metabolic or autoimmune disorder in a human or veterinary patient, said method comprising the step of
 - (A) administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound having the formula:



wherein:

- R_1 , R_2 and R_3 each represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_{22} acyl group;
- R_4 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_6 alkyl group;
- R_5 represents a C_1 - C_{21} alkyl group or a C_6 or C_{10} aryl group;
- R_6 represents a hydrogen atom; and
- R represents the residue of an amino acid or a linear peptide of up to from 2 to 6 amino acid residues. Furthermore, at least one of the residues may be optionally substituted with a lipophilic group through an ester or amide bond;
- and n is 1 and 2.

2. A method according to Claim 1 wherein Step A comprises administering GMDP.

1 3. A method according to Claim 1 wherein Step A comprises
2 administering GMDP-A.

1 4. A method according to Claim 1 wherein Step A comprises
2 administering GMDP and GMDP-A.

1 5. A method according to Claim 4 wherein Step A comprises
2 administering GMDP and GMDP-A in separate doses at separate times.

1 6. A method according to any of Claims 1-5 wherein the compound is
2 administered enterally.

1 7. A method according to any of Claims 1-5 wherein the compound is
2 administered parenterally.

1 8. A method according to Claim 7 wherein the compound is administered
2 intranasally.

1 9. A method according to Claim 7 wherein the compound is administered
2 sublingually.

1 10. A method according to Claim 7 wherein the compound is administered
2 by buccal administration.

1 11. A method according to any of Claims 1-10 wherein the method further
2 comprises the step of:

3

4 (B) administering to the patient a natural or synthetic compound that
5 comprises a flavone, flavonoid, isoflavone or a derivative, prodrug or
6 congener thereof.

1 12. A method according to Claim 11 wherein Step A and Step B are carried
2 out substantially simultaneously.

1 13. A method according to Claim 11 wherein Step A and Step B are carried
2 out at different times.

1 14. A method according to Claim 12 wherein the compound of Step A and
2 the compound of Step B are administered in a fixed dosage combination
3 pharmaceutical preparation.

1 15. The use of a compound having the general formula set forth in Claim 1,
2 in the manufacture of a preparation for administration to a human or
3 veterinary patient for the treatment of an autoimmune or metabolic disorder.